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INFO RUSBAY/AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY 2389
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 01419

EXDIS

E. O. 12356: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MNUC, PARM, IN, US
SUBJECT: SPARE PARTS FOR TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION

REF: NEW DELHI 1066

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. REFTEL QUOTES AN INDIAN PRESS REPORT AS STATING "NOTWITHSTANDING THE ARRANGEMENT MADE WITH WEST GERMANY FOR SUPPLY OF SOME SPARE PARTS (FOR THE TARAPUR REACTOR), INDIA HAS NOW ASKED THE US TO LIVE UP TO THE UNEQUIVOCAL PROVISIONS OF THE 1963 TREATY." AN EARLIER PRESS REPORT SAID THAT THE GOI HAD DECIDED "TO INSIST ON THE CONTRACTURAL OBLIGATION OF THE U.S. TO MEET ITS ENTIRE REQUIREMENT OF SPARES, NOT MERELY THOSE THAT CANNOT BE PROCURED FROM OTHER SOURCES," AND THAT ENTIRE LIST HAD BEEN GIVEN TO U.S.
3. ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT GOI HAS GIVEN US A LIST WHICH APPEARS TO THE SIMILAR IF NOT IDENTICAL TO THE ONE GIVEN US IN EARLY 1983, IT HAS NOT SAID TO US THAT IT IS INSISTING THAT WE PROVIDE THE ENTIRE LIST. FOREIGN SECRETARY RASGOTRA ASKED THE AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 28, WITH REGARD TO THE LIST, "WHY WOULDN'T YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO PROVIDE TWO OR THREE SPARE PARTS." OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT RASGOTRA WAS LOOKING FOR A GESTURE WE COULD MAKE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN IMPROVED INDO-US RELATIONS, AND THAT HE SEIZED ON THE SPARE PARTS ISSUE BECAUSE HE THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT NOW BE POSSIBLE DIRECTLY FROM THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE "SENSE OF CONGRESS" STATEMENT IN NOVEMBER WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUPPLY OF SUCH SPARES.
4. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN TO THE GOI THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "SENSE OF CONGRESS" STATEMENT. CODEL MCHUGH AND THE VARIOUS STAFFDELS VISITING DELHI HAVE HELPED IN THIS REGARD.

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5. WHILE THE GOI IS NOT PRESSING US TO SUPPLY SPARES DIRECTLY, AS FAR AS WE CAN DISCOVER IT IS ALSO NOT PRESSING ITALY AND THE FRG. RAJA RAMANA, HEAD OF THE INDIAN AEC, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR IN NOVEMBER THAT HE EXPECTED GERMANY WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY MOST OF THE SPARES (NEW DELHI 21428), BUT THE GOI HAS APPARENTLY NOT FOLLOWED UP WITH THE FRG. WE ATTRIBUTE THIS TO A GENERALLY REDUCED SENSE OF URGENCY RE TARAPUR SPARES RATHER THAN ANY DECISION ONLY TO SEEK THE SPARES ONLY FROM THE U.S. BARNES
END OF MESSAGE

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